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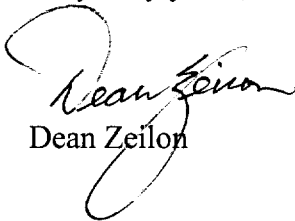
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

Gentlepersons:

I understand that the FDA is considering the removal of all current labeling requirements for irradiated foods. I frankly believe that reduction in present labeling requirements is an excellent idea. The maintenance of special labels where the health or safety of consumers is not at risk should not be mandated by force of law.

The irradiation of food items has proved to be a safe method to preserve and protect the quality of food items and by doing so to protect the public health in turn. The activists who are writing you in support of continuing these unnecessary labeling requirements are acting in a narrow, self serving way. The FDA's mandate is to act in a responsible way (including economic considerations) to protect the public health. That can best be achieved by removing all current labeling requirements for irradiated foods. After all, we don't require that clean produce be labeled if it was washed!

Very truly yours,



Dean Zeilon

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